

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position, the jaw members having opposed clamping surfaces, and the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material;

a first elongated conductive ablation member carried by the first jaw member;

a second elongated conductive ablation member carried by the second jaw member;

each conductive ablation member including a tissue contacting portion having a width which is substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface; and

the first and second elongated conductive ablation members being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source, each jaw member comprising at least three distinct elements, an elongated support member supporting substantially the entire length of its associated conductive ablation member, the first or second elongated conductive ablation member, and an insulator disposed between the conductive member and the support member.

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the ablation members are between approximately 3 to 8 cm in

length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

3. (Currently Amended) A tissue grasping and ablation apparatus comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions; each jaw including a conductive ablation member and a clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the conductive ablation member and clamping surface of the other jaw; the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material and the face-to-face ablation members being connectible to an electrical power source;

each conductive ablation member including a tissue contacting portion having a width which is substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface; and

each jaw comprising at least three distinct elements an elongated support member supporting substantially the entire length of its associated conductive member, the first or second elongated conductive member, and an insulator disposed between the conductive member and the support member;

whereby when tissue is grasped between said clamping surfaces, the ablation members are contacted by operable to conduct current through the tissue.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein each of the ablation members is between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 in width.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which the clamping surfaces of the conductive ablation members are convex.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which each conductive ablation member defines an interior bore.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which each conductive ablation member defines a generally annular cross-sectional shape.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2 in which the conductive member is a wire.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which the conductive member is a wire.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10 in which the wire is supported by the insulator.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11 in which the wire is supported by the insulator.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a handle member;

first and second jaw members, selected one of the jaw members being associated with the handle member and being movable

by the handle member, the jaw members being movable between a first open position and a second clamped position, the jaw members having opposed clamping surfaces, and the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material;

a first elongated conductive ablation member carried by the first jaw member;

a second elongated conductive ablation member carried by the second jaw member;

each conductive ablation member including a tissue contacting portion having a width which is substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface; and

the first and second elongated conductive ablation members being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source, each jaw member comprising at least three distinct elements, an elongated support member supporting substantially the entire length of its associated conductive ablation member, the first or second elongated conductive ablation member, and an insulator disposed between the conductive member and the support member.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein each of the ablation members is between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 in width.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15 in which the clamping surfaces of the conductive ablation members are convex.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15 in which each conductive ablation member defines an interior bore.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15 in which

each conductive ablation member defines a generally annular cross-sectional shape.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15 in which the insulator is supported by the support member and the conductive member is supported by the insulator.